

**Summary of Practicum Experience:** Briefly describe the agency setting and the population served by the agency. Provide a short overview of your role within that setting.

I will be working in the Rockwood School District (RSD) as a School Social Worker during the 2008-2009 school year. RSD serves students in the west St. Louis County and northern Jefferson County areas from Kindergarten through Twelfth grades. Additionally, RSD serves St. Louis City students participating in the voluntary transfer program. 19 elementary, 6 middle, and 4 high schools house RSD's study body population of 22,000 students. The RSD mission statement is "All students, with support from the community, parents, and staff, will be provided a dynamic curriculum within a safe and caring environment so they will develop the skills, abilities, and attitudes to be lifelong learners and citizens of good character who are prepared to contribute to an ever changing global society".

The school social worker's role encompasses this mission through working with students, teachers, parents, and staff to promote and support students' welfare. This primarily includes academics, interpersonal relationships, crisis situations, attendance issues, problem solving, and any issues that might arise that interfere with a student's school performance. These barriers are often overcome through the use of tools including assessment, counseling, consultation, and utilizing both school and community resources.

I will maintain a caseload that includes a combination of elementary, middle, and high school students. I will spend one day a week at each of the different schools assigned to me (Babler Elementary, Wildwood Middle, and Lafayette High). At these locations, I will meet with students in one-on-one settings and also communicate with their families, teachers, and other staff involved in promoting a student's school performance.

## **Learning Objectives**

1. The student will integrate theoretical knowledge about [children, families, older adults] (*circle one or more*) in the practicum setting.

Activities: The students will apply theories learned in the classroom to an ongoing caseload of students, their families, and the staff that interface with those students. The student will apply knowledge of developmental and behavioral theories in order to effectively use interventions to solve problems. The student will display knowledge of child and adolescent development, family systems, and social learning when working with students and an interdisciplinary team of staff that might include: social workers, teachers, nurses, attendance secretaries, and guidance counselors. When completing assessments, the student will apply theoretical models to assess the needs in order to implement the appropriate services.

Evaluation: The evaluation will be done by the supervisor through direct observation of oral and written communication. The supervisor will evaluate the student's ability to understand the issues affecting the client. Also, the supervisor will review the student's assessment through discussion and case notes. The supervisor will provide feedback regarding the student's ability to apply theoretical knowledge in the school setting.

Learning outcomes: The student will be able to apply the theoretical knowledge she learns in the classroom and apply it to the student, families, and other persons involved in the school community. The student will use a variety of theoretical perspectives to interpret client behavior, formulate assessments, and carry out interventions.

2. The student will apply appropriate assessment and intervention skills for the population of [children, families, older adults] (*circle one or more*) served in the practicum agency.

Activities: The student will be assigned a caseload of students in the elementary, middle, and high school settings. The student will participate in assessment and intervention as deemed necessary. The student will assess needs from social, emotional, academic, and/or behavioral standpoints and formulate treatment plans tailored to individual students. The student will work with an interdisciplinary team by attending meetings and trainings. The student will work with students in one-on-one counseling. The student will document all assessments and interventions according to RSD School Social Worker guidelines.

Evaluation: The supervisor will evaluate the student's ability to assess and intervene effectively with her clients. The student's ability to conduct assessment and select interventions will be evaluated. The supervisor will observe the student's tools of communication including phone calls, letters, and onsite visits with students. The supervisor will evaluate the student's interactions with clients and co-workers offering feedback and constructive criticism.

Learning outcomes: The student will learn how to appropriately make an assessment and intervene effectively with students, families, and school staff. The student will understand the empirical and theoretical knowledge needed to select interventions appropriate to the assessment. The student will learn to collaborate with school staff in order to assess the client's strengths and weaknesses in order to complete the assessment.

3. The student will understand the organizational structure of the agency and how it impacts on practice with [children, families, older adults] (*circle one or more*).

Activities: The student will review the Intern Resource Guide for Rockwood School District. Also, the student will attend meetings that pertain to school social work including the Community Response Team and staff development. The student will complete a training period with her supervisor, which includes an introduction to the staff at the three schools where she will be working and an overview of the tasks the student will complete throughout her practicum.

Evaluation: The supervisor will discuss school policies with the student and evaluate her ability to interpret and discuss these policies with staff, students, and families of the district. The supervisor will also monitor the student's understanding of RSD organizational structure through discussion and observation of the student's involvement within the assigned schools. The supervisor will get feedback from the assigned schools personnel to verify the student's ability to grasp the organization in a school setting.

Learning outcomes: The student will understand school policies. The student will understand how the school is organized and within that structure, understand how to best assist students, their families, teachers, and staff. The student will also learn more about how school social workers function in a secondary setting.

4. The student will understand current [child welfare, family, aging] (*circle one or more*) policy and how those policies affect the clients they serve.

Activities: The student will review many existing state and federal laws pertaining to school social work, such as the laws concerning attendance, homelessness, child abuse, educational neglect, and other special services. The student will be familiar with laws including No Child Left Behind, Safe Schools Act, and McKinney-Vento Act, and understand how they pertain to students. The student will have knowledge of these laws in order to educate students and their families on their rights in regard to confidentiality, legal issues, educational rights, and other relevant policies. The student will make sure students in grades K-12 are in accordance with the state laws through evaluating attendance records. The student will review and participate in the hotline process to report incidences of abuse and/or neglect.

**Evaluation:** The supervisor will evaluate the student's understanding of the current laws and policies pertinent to school social work through discussion and review of caseload. The supervisor will make sure that the student is following the appropriate procedures through weekly supervision and provide feedback and criticism as necessary.

**Learning outcomes:** The student will have a thorough understanding of the current and changing policies that impact school social work, especially No Child Left Behind, Safe Schools Act, and McKinney-Vento Act.

5. The student will understand and apply values and ethics relevant to social work practice in the practicum agency.

**Activities:** The student will review and follow the NASW Code of Ethics and the School Social Work Standards throughout her practicum at RSD when dealing with clients, families, and staff. The student will identify the values and ethics impacting a client's ability to perform in a school setting. The student will also recognize value and ethical concerns that may occur within the school district.

**Evaluation:** The supervisor will observe the student and evaluate her ability to apply the NASW Code of Ethics concerning the clients, families, and staff in the district. The supervisor will use discussion, observation, and constructive feedback to evaluate the student's capacity to abide by value and ethical guidelines and her ability to resolve conflicts regarding values and ethics.

**Learning outcomes:** The student will demonstrate the ability to work with guidelines in the NASW Code of Ethics as well as RSD policies related to values and ethics. Also, the student will become aware of her personal biases and actively work to manage these in a way as to not affect her social work practice in the school setting.

6. The student will understand the impact of race, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, mental/physical ability and ethnicity on practice with [children, families, older adults] (*circle one or more*) and the impact of one's own values and biases on one's work.

**Activities:** The student will work with a diverse population of students, staff, and families within the district. The student will assess and treat students and families in a nondiscriminatory manner demonstrating sensitivity to racial, socio-economic, sexual orientation, religious, and gender issues.

**Evaluation:** The supervisor will evaluate the student's effectiveness and sensitivity in working with diverse student populations as well as staff different from herself. The

supervisor will evaluate the student's ability to apply ethics and values expected in school social work as related to diversity.

Learning outcomes: The student will be able to recognize factors related to diversity when working in the school district. The student demonstrates the ability to be sensitive and understanding to both the similarities and differences between her and those she is directly working with. The student will gather a better understanding of the role diversity plays within a school environment.

7. The student will learn about services relevant to work with [children, families, older adults] (*circle one or more*) and will use these services when appropriate.

Activities: Through individual case management the student will learn appropriate strategies, interventions, and referral methods needed as a school social worker. The student will attend trainings and meetings within the district to further her knowledge of the services applicable to the students and families through the school and community. The student will execute social work skills, theories, and values through daily interactions, phone contact and home visits (as required) to aid students in need. The student will maintain case notes about all communication with students and their families.

Evaluation: The student will be evaluated on her case management on a weekly basis by the supervisor. The supervisor will evaluate the student's ability to interact appropriately with clients using strategies and interventions to address her client's needs. The supervisor will evaluate based on observation and professional staff feedback.

Learning Outcomes: The student will learn how school social workers effectively deliver services to students in need. The student will demonstrate skill in identifying resources, executing intervention, and maintain communication with client, family, and staff. Overall, the student will learn how to professionally maintain a caseload of students as a school social worker.

8. The student will learn to evaluate social work practice with [children, families, older adults] (*circle one or more*). This objective will be completed in conjunction with SW6400 during the Fall/Winter (*circle one*) semester of 20\_\_.

9. Optional objective: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

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Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Learning outcomes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Comments:**

Distribution of copies: Student  
Faculty liaison  
Certificate option coordinator (if applicable)  
Original on file with the Office of Field Education

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